

REMARKS

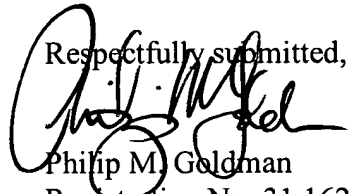
These remarks are responsive to the Office Action of November 11, 2005. Claims 1-15 are pending. Claims 1-4, 8, 10, and 11 stand rejected, and claims 5-7, 9, 12-15 are objected to. Applicants provide herewith a Request for Continued Examination which, together with the present amendment, will place the claims in condition for allowance.

In order to facilitate the prosecution of the allowable claims, the claims rejected under Sections 102 and 103 have been cancelled without prejudice, thereby rendering these rejections moot.

The indication of the allowable nature of claims 5-7, 9, 12-15 is appreciated and reflected in the amendment above. In order to minimize the number of claims, the subject matter of claims 5-7 has been recast into the form of the Markush group added to claim 1. Also, claim 12 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 10. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-4, 9, and 12-15 will therefore be pending and in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner believes it would be useful to advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip M. Goldman
Registration No. 31,162

Customer No. 22859
Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.
200 South Sixth Street, Suite 4000
Minneapolis, MN 55402-1425 USA
Telephone: (612) 492-7088
Facsimile: (612) 492-7077

4023508_1.DOC